Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 2 and 3. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 2 and 3, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 2 and 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

<u>REMARKS/ARGUMENTS</u>

Provided herewith is a new drawing sheet that includes the requested changes to FIG. 3, and also corrects a typographical error in FIG. 2. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is overcome.

Claims 5 and 15 have been amended to overcome the objections thereto. Claim 15 has been amended in accordance with the suggestion in the Office Action. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that the §101 rejection to claims 15 and 16 is overcome.

Pending claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, and apparently claims 15-16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,961,793 (Kato). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As to amended claim 1, Kato nowhere teaches, at least, increasing an accumulator value for losing bidders by a variable amount based on the accumulator value. In this regard, Kato does not teach accumulator values whatsoever. Instead, in the system of Kato, priority values are merely stored in an arbitration priority generating section 60 such as shown in FIG. 5, where the arbitration priority appears as a register. Nor is there any teaching of increasing such a non-existent accumulator value based on its value. Instead, in the schemes disclosed in Kato there is no increasing an accumulator value by a variable amount, instead in each bus cycle another priority value is stored. *E.g.*, Kato, 10:62-67. Claim 15 and the claims depending therefrom are similarly patentable as Kato fails to teach increasing the accumulator value by a variable amount based on the accumulator value.

As to claim 6, Kato nowhere teaches accumulators that are to accumulate and store accumulator values. Instead, as discussed above the arbitration priority generating sections of Kato do not perform accumulations and merely store received data. Kato, 8:17-30.
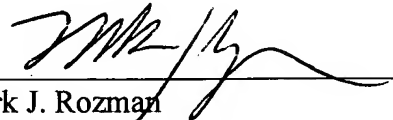
As to claim 18, Kato nowhere teaches configurability by a user. That is, Kato nowhere teaches either registers that store weight values or accumulators that accumulate and store accumulator values, where these weight values and accumulator values are to be configured by a user. Instead, all that Kato teaches is that an arbitration priority control section 50 controls priority. Nowhere, however does Kato teach or suggest that this be user configurable.

For at least these same reasons, the dependent claims are also patentable.

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The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/21/07

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